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CLASSIFICATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria DATE DISTR.

13 June 1951

SUBJECT

Soviet Exploitation of Bulgarian Uranium

NO. OF PAGES

and Metal Mines

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X

- 1. Soviet authorities have assumed complete control of the uranium mine at Murgash, the full capacity of which is being retained exclusively for Soviet consumption. Mine employees are all Soviet citizens with the exception of an appointed director, an unidentified Bulgarian, who knows little or nothing of what actually takes place in the mine.
- 2. In March 1951 the entire Soviet staff was changed at Murgash because it was feared that certain elements had become toofriendly with local Bulgarians, creating a security risk. The new staff which was brought in has a greater number of Soviet technicians.
- 3. The uranium mine in Rahovo (sic) near Botevgrad has increased its security measures in recent times. Civilians are strictly forbidden entry into the mining zone, and no one is permitted to mention the existence of the mine in public. The directing body is composed entirely of Soviets, while the miners and paymasters are Bulgarians. Once processed, the uranium is loaded directly onto railroad cars, which are subsequently sealed, and the shipment proceeds to the USSR under police escort.
- 4. Granitoid type mines of unspecified minerals near Klisura and Panagyurishte and the gold mine near Trum are also in Soviet hands. Lead, copper and other unspecified, minerals are sent from Bulgaria to Czechoslovakia by virtue of a unilateral agreement with the Bulgarian Government and a special clause in the Soviet-Czech pact.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States. Next Review Date: 2008

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